

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00

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P R 151217Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2106

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION

REF: LISBON 1441

1. GOP OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON MAR 15 NAMES OF 24 MILITARY
OFFICERS WHO WILL MAKE UP FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEWLY CREATED
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SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION (CSR). CSR IS CHAIRED

BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IN HIS CAPACITY AS ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF AND INCLUDES THE SEVEN FORMER MEMBERS OF THE NOW DISSOLVED NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA (JSN); THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM); THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF COPCON; THE PRIME MINISTER (WHEN HE IS A MILITARY OFFICER); AND EIGHT MEMBERS DESIGNATED BY THE AFM, INCLUDING FOUR FROM THE ARMY AND TWO EACH FROM THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY.

2. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ARE ON THE CSR:

(A) FORMER MEMBERS OF THE JSN:

--GEN. FRANCISCO DA COSTA GOMES, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF
--GEN. CARLOS SOARES FABIAO, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF
--GEN. NUNO FISHER LOPES, ARMY DEPUTY CHIEF
--VADM. ANTONIO ROSA COUTINHO, NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF
--VADM. JOSE BAPTISTA PINHEIRO AZEVEDO, NAVY DEPUTY CHIEF
--GEN. NARCISO MENDES DIAS, AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
--GEN. ANIBAL PINHO FREIRA, AIR FORCE DEPUTY

(B) PRIME MINISTER:

--BG. VASCO DOS SANTOS GONCALVES

(C) DEPUTY COPCON COMMANDER:

--BG. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO

(D) MEMBERS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE AFM:

--LTC (ARTILLERY) MANUEL CHARAIS
--CPT (INFANTRY) VASCO CARREIA LOURENCO
--CPT (ENGINEERS) DUARTE PINTO SOARES
--LCDR CARLOS DE ALMEIDA CONTREIRAS
--1LT (ENGINEERS) JOSE MANUEL JUDAS
--MAJ (PILOT) JOSE CANTO E CASTRO
--MAJ (AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING) JOSE PEREIRA PINTO

(E) MEMBERS DESIGNATED BY THE AFM:

ARMY:

--MAJ (INFANTRY) PEDRO JULIO DE PESERAT CORREIA
--CPT (ARTILLERY) MANUEL JOAO FERREIA DE SOUSA
--CPT (ARTILLERY) RODRIGO MANUEL DE SOUSA CASTRO
--CPT (ENGINEERS) LUIS ERNESTO ALBUQUERQUE FERREIRA DE MACEDO
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NAVY:

--LCDR (ENG.) MANUEL BEIRAO MARTINS GUERREIRO
--LT (MEDICAL) RAMIRO PEDROSO CORREIA

AIR FORCE:

--MAJ (AERONAUTICAL ENG.) JOSE MANUEL COSTA NEVES
--CPT (AERONAUTICAL ENG.) VITOR MANUEL GRACA CUNHA

3. COMMENT: THE CSR DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM ITS CLOSEST

PREVIOUS EQUIVALENT, THE AFM SUPERIOR COUNCIL (COUNCIL OF 20), IN THAT IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE MILITARY MINISTERS IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. TWO OF THE LEADING LIGHTS AND FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE AFM, MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ALVES AND ANTUNES, AND ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE AFM LABOR MINISTER CAPTAIN COSTA MARTINS AND INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION MINISTER LTC COSTA BRAS, FIND THEMSELVES EXCLUDED FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL ORGAN OF GOVERNMENT. THIS SUGGESTS A DELIBERATE MOVE TO ISOLATE ALVES AND ANTUNES, THE FORMER BEING A WELL KNOWN MODERATE AND THE LATTER BEING ASSOCIATED WITH A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO THE NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM IN OPPOSITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MORE RADICAL PROPENSITIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE MAR 15 MEDIA ARE REPORTING THAT ANTUNES IS LIKELY TO BECOME SOME SORT OF ECONOMIC CZAR IN THE NEW GOVT. ANTUNES MAY HAVE FORTIFIED HIS LEFT FLANK WITH HIS RECENT TRIP TO ALGERIA AND HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ABOUT PORTUGAL'S RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. THIS WOULD LEAVE ALVES OUT IN THE COLD ALONG WITH THE OTHER MILITARY MINISTERS, ONE OF WHOM, COSTA MARTINS, IS KNOWN AS VAIN AND INCOMPETENT AND THE REST AS POLITICAL NONENTITIES. THIS WOULD BE A NEAT WAY OF GETTING RID OF ALVES, WHO WITH HIS IMPECAABLE CREDENTIALS AS ONE OF INITIATORS OF THE APRIL 25 COUP, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN OPENLY ATTACKED OR EXCLUDED.

4. ALL IN ALL, COMPOSITON OF CSR SEEMS TO BE A MOVE TO THE LEFT. HOW FAR TO THE LEFT WILL DEPEND ON WHAT HAPPENS TO ALVES.
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